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# TheUSDVISTA

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## Toreros take on Torpedo League

USD students are swimming into their first season of the Underwater Torpedo League

Anderson Haigler  
Sports Editor

Club sports at the college level offer a wide variety of options for students. Organizations range from club baseball and softball, to basketball and even lacrosse. The Underwater Torpedo League (UTL), however, offers a complete departure from the traditional intercollegiate athletic landscape. Rooted in games developed in U.S. Marine special forces training, the UTL resembles a cross between water polo and rugby.

Teams of five, donning only a swimsuit and goggles, face off and attempt to move a small torpedo that is not unlike a child's pool toy into the opposing team's net at the bottom of the pool to score points. Any movement with the torpedo must occur while the player is underwater, and perhaps more importantly, any contact in an attempt to steal the torpedo while underwater is legal. Despite the inherently rough nature of the sport, the UTL prides itself on being inclusive of players of all skill and experience levels.

Prime Hall, founder of the UTL and current coach of the University of San Diego team, explained the sport in his own words.

"It's played at the bottom of the



The USD Underwater Torpedo League co-ed team practices at the Sports Center on campus multiple times a week.

deep end, five on five, with a slightly negatively buoyant torpedo that can glide up to 15 feet underwater," Hall said. "The object of our game is to get that into the opposing team's net, and the two teams battle it out."

Hall, a Marine Special Operations veteran, created the game with a colleague during his time as a Marine Water Survival Instructor while stationed in San Diego.

"I trained Marines on their

annual swim qualifications," Hall said. "I ended up training thousands and thousands of Marines through my pool. That's where we started playing a variation of it, myself and my co-founder. We also started

doing these different aquatic fitness workouts to get ready to go on special operations, and we've kinda just been building on that ever since."

See UTL, Page 11

## Gas prices propel

Price of gas in San Diego reach an all time high in three years

Lilyana Espinoza  
News Editor

In March of 2015 when senior Mshary Arnous received his BMW M4, he treasured driving anywhere and everywhere he could. The car had everything that Arnous could have ever dreamed of, but little did he know that he would slowly have to make changes to how he drove his car due to rising gas prices.

Although Arnous loves to drive his car everywhere, even from his Pacific Ridge apartment to USD, he realized changes had to be made in how often he used his car.

"I stopped driving to school — I only drive for the necessary stuff such as food, and I have weeks where I only drive during the weekends," Arnous said. "On the weekends I will go as far as Los Angeles, so if I am planning to do a trip I won't use my car during the week. Years ago when the price was better, I would use my car five to six times a day."

Arnous continues to put

See Gas prices, Page 2



Average gas prices in San Diego have risen to \$3.52 a gallon.

Cyrus Lange/The USD Vista

## My Story fosters vulnerability

Celina Tebor  
Feature Editor

"Shut-up and listen." This is the mantra of My Story. Once a semester, Toreros come together in community with open hearts to hear the stories of their fellow classmates. The stories provide laughs, tears, and most importantly, the opportunity to build empathy and community.

On Wednesday, April 11, over 100 Toreros gathered in the UCs to shut up and listen to five USD students' stories about experiences that shaped their lives.

The concept of My Story is simple: members of the USD community stand in front of the audience and tell their stories, sometimes in addition to showing photos. The storytellers speak of adversities they have faced and how they overcame them, often revealing vulnerable or sensitive information about themselves that many people do not know. Despite its simplicity, the event remains popular as seats fill up quickly every semester.

This event was part of USD's Sexual Assault Awareness Week. Along the walls of the room hung USD students' photos from the What I Be Project, in which Toreros openly express their insecurities and face their stereotypes by writing the words on their faces.

Sophomore Jenelle Seguin spoke at My Story last semester. She discussed why My Story's motto of "shut up and listen" is so important to the event, and how it connects back to building community at this university.

"I feel like this society lives in a very fast-paced world," Seguin said. "By shutting up and listening, you hear other people talk about experiences they've been through, and by doing that, you might possibly find connections with those people. And that creates empathy, which creates relationships, which creates a stronger community at USD, which makes more people feel more at home and cared for."

Junior Davis Luanava was a speaker at this semester's My Story. She echoed Seguin's thoughts, emphasizing the impact that

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Gas prices on  
the rise

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Beyoncé at  
Coachella

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Toreros guide  
to surfing

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'Sister Sister  
Sister' tour

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Hill shining in  
senior season

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# NEWS

## Gas prices cause contemplation

*Students reconsider driving habits as a result of increased gas prices in San Diego*

### Gas prices from Page 1

premium gas in his car knowing that it is the most expensive. He remembered that a few years ago he spent about \$35 to \$40 to fill up his tank and now it costs him anywhere from \$50 to \$60. Arnous has to find alternatives to save money on gas other than switching from premium gas.

"My car has different modes in which I can play with the car: efficiency, sport, and sport plus," Arnous said. "Using each mode

keeps increasing I would start to support the idea of carpooling with someone. It was always me and my car and if someone wanted to come along with me they can, but we are definitely taking my car. But now with the increase I might consider saying, 'Yes we are taking your car, we aren't taking mine.'"

According to The Balance, an online financial empowerment website, crude oil prices are the cause for the high gas prices. The San Diego Union-Tribune stated that California has higher gas prices compared to other states because

now. The 91 is about \$3.70 around the areas I get gas. Even if the lowest gas is at \$3.50 I will just pay for that. I don't want to pay more than what I think I should for gas."

Although Hebreo has made no changes in his driving habits, he recognized that he would make some changes if prices keep increasing.

"I find (gas prices rising over \$4.00) hard to imagine, but I definitely wouldn't be giving people rides as much," Hebreo said. "Since I am a commuter at a college, I always drive my friends around and I feel that I would be more conservative when it comes to that. I wouldn't be willing to drive them around as much."

Hebreo also said he would consider asking friends for gas money if the prices continued to increase at its current rate.

Gas prices in San Diego have increased over a dozen times in less than a month, according to CBS 8. The gas prices today in San Diego are at its highest price since August of 2015 at \$3.52 a gallon as stated by FOX5.

According to the AAA gas prices, the regular national gas price average was \$2.42 per gallon compared to California's price of \$3.01 a year ago. The current national average is \$2.76 versus the current California average of \$3.52.

AAA spokesman Jeanette Casselano gave several reasons why gas prices are increasing in a statement by AAA.

"Expensive crude oil prices, unrest in the Middle East, strong domestic demand, record



Many USD students drive luxury cars that require premium gas.

Photo courtesy of Mshary Arnous

production rates, and global oil supply surplus have created the

spike in gas prices.

"The instability of gas prices is a

**"If I am using sport plus then I will be putting gas in my car four times a week. Before the gas increase, my car would always be in sport plus. Now, 70 percent of the time it is on efficiency mode."**

**-Mshary Arnous**

affects the gas that I am using. If I am using sport plus then I will be putting gas in my car four times a week. Before the gas increase, my car would always be in sport plus. Now, 70 percent of the time it is on efficiency mode."

With the steady increase in gas prices, Arnous has also begun to consider the option of not driving his own car places, but carpooling instead when traveling far distances.

"I was never the guy who supports the idea of carpooling," Arnous said. "I love to take my car out by myself, but if the price

of higher taxes, as well as a higher standard for fuel that is meant to reduce air pollution.

First-year Jared Hebreo commutes 25 minutes from home to campus four times a week and will stay on campus for the entire day before returning home.

"I usually do 91 (premium) gas, but recently I have been doing 89 because of the recent rise in prices," Hebreo said. "I think the last time I filled up gas it was \$46. I feel that I shouldn't have to pay for gas that is above \$3.50 a gallon and I think that is what it is set around for the 89

**"It makes it very hard to commit to a job or activity that requires a long commute because if gas prices spike, you might find yourself in a situation where your job is no longer worth the pay."**

**-Sean Ewing**

perfect storm to drive spring gas prices toward new heights," Casselano said.

Junior Sean Ewing currently drives a 2012 Toyota Corolla and voiced his concern regarding the

little scary because you really never know what you will be paying now versus next month," Ewing said. "It makes it very hard to commit to a job or activity that requires a long commute because if gas prices spike, you might find yourself in a situation where your job is no longer worth the pay."

Ewing's commute from his Pacific Ridge apartment to his job, located in both El Cajon and Lemon Grove, is 40 miles round-trip twice a week. He is compensated for his gas as well as paid hourly.

"(The increase in gas prices) has had to make me consider the value of having a commuting job," Ewing said. "My current job, being so far away, does reimburse for gas thankfully. However, if this job didn't reimburse for gas or if I was looking for another job that didn't, I would have to really take into account the compensation provided and subtract that from the average gas cost to determine if the job is really worth it and what my actual 'take-home' salary would be."

This increase in prices is at the forefront of the minds of people who travel by car, especially for those who commute to and from farther locations.



Gas prices affect students who commute to campus and to work, potentially influencing their driving habits.

Cyrus Lange/The USD Vista

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# San Diego disposes of e-waste

**Electronics Recycling Center located on Linda Vista Road is celebrated after seven years of operation**

**Glenn McDonell**  
Contributor

On Earth Day seven years ago, University of San Diego's Electronics Recycling Center opened its doors to the San Diego community for the first time, adding it to the list of student-led ventures. These have made the university a national leader in environmental responsibility.

Last week the center hosted an open house that celebrated the success it has enjoyed since it began in 2011.

The event was put on to showcase its operations and bring more awareness to the role it plays in the community, according to Arthur Atkinson, supervisor and business development manager.

Atkinson has been managing the recycling center since it began and said that the operation is the only one of its kind in the San Diego area.

"There are other e-waste recycling centers in San Diego, but they're only open on Saturdays and you have to make an appointment to do a drop-off," Atkinson said. "Ours is open during regular business hours six days out of the week because we want to make it easier for people to do the right thing."

The center's location on Linda Vista Road, at the western edge of campus and at the bottom of the hill, makes it accessible not only for those on campus, but also for the surrounding San Diego community. Atkinson stated that the center

is frequented by homeowners who are looking for responsible ways to get rid of everything from laptops to dishwashers to old iPhones.

"By making the choice to drop your old or unwanted items with us instead of throwing them out, you're diverting harmful e-waste like alkaline batteries from ending up in landfills, where they take up space and pose a threat to the environment," Atkinson said.

Last year, the Miramar Landfill announced that efforts like USD's have extended the life of the landfill by years. Even with these operations in place, only 12 percent of e-waste ends up getting recycled, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

When electronics end up in landfills instead of being processed by centers like USD's, the precious metals used as conductors are thrown out too. The most recent data from the EPA reported that over \$60 million in gold and silver from smartphones is thrown in the trash.

The center has a team of volunteers who disassemble the devices that people bring in and then separate the component parts into large bins.

The content of these bins are then packaged and sent off to special processing facilities such as CalMicro of San Diego, where the valuable materials to be used in manufacturing new products are then extracted.

Some of the components removed from the products the center receives contain a significant

amount of value.

According to Atkinson, a box full of circuit boards can be worth as much as eight or nine hundred dollars.

"There's a lot of shady business practices going on in places like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where children are often forced to work in dangerous conditions," Atkinson said. "If we can get corporations to source these conflict materials from old computers then we can reduce abuses to land and people all over the world."

The center's operations have created social good a lot closer to home as well.

In 2013, the ERC began to set aside some of the more lightly used electronics to be sold in the front of the warehouse, starting what Atkinson referred to as the "goodwill business model."

Since then, the store in the front has expanded to include a wide range of second-hand products, some of which are photographed and posted on Craigslist or eBay.

"I started noticing that a lot of the stuff we were receiving was really nice stuff and totally still working, and it seemed like a waste to be disassembling it before its useful life was up," Atkinson said. "We knew that there were many people in our community who could really benefit from a sort of thrift store for electronics, so we started to sell some of it at low prices in the front of the warehouse."

While thrift stores for clothing, furniture, and other second-hand items are relatively commonplace

in the San Diego area, the ERC's electronics store is unique. Atkinson says that this is in no small part due to the planned obsolescence of computer products.

"Sometimes we really feel like we are fish swimming upstream when we try to encourage people to keep their old phones or computers for as long as they work," Atkinson said. "Companies are always making new products with marginal differences from their previous models, which means that there is tons of stuff just sitting out there not being used."

When these products end up on the center's shelves rather than in people's garages, they become available for those who could really make use of them.

"In this way we're meeting a need of lower socioeconomic status people that gives them opportunities in the same way that Goodwill or Salvation Army does but with electronics," Atkinson said.

The center's storefront and warehouse operations have also created opportunities for a team of student workers and interns.

First-year Business Administration major Casey Evans joined the team earlier this year and stated he enjoys the work he does.

"It's a super relaxed environment and everyone is very nice," Evans said. "I like that I get to work with people and make a positive impact."

Evans found out about the opportunity to be a part of the operation during last semester's open house, in which he applied and began working soon after.

"When I first got here, I spent

some time working the storefront and taking care of customers and people who came to drop stuff off," Evans said. "I sometimes also work in the warehouse sorting everything into bins."

As a non-profit organization, revenues from these store sales along with grant money are used exclusively to pay student staff members like Evans and to cover the center's operating expenses.

As the storefront expanded, however, the center began to make a profit.

"In February, we did so well that we grossed over 20 thousand in excess of our monthly expenses," Atkinson said. "Once we've accrued around 60 thousand or more in reserve profits we're going to purchase carbon offsets on behalf of the USD community to counter our footprint as an institution."

According to Terrapass, one of the leading carbon offset enterprises, the average American produces 36 thousand pounds of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

At their rate of \$4.99 per one thousand pounds of carbon offset, the recycling center could very soon offset the carbon footprints of hundreds of USD students.

By providing San Diegans with a way to get rid of their e-waste, the USD's Electronics Recycling Center is keeping toxic materials out of landfills.

This provides various opportunities for those in need, and could soon be reducing global emissions, one piece of "junk" at a time.

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The USD Electronic Recycling Center is open six days a week for convenience. Photo courtesy of The USD Electronics Recycling Center

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# OPINION

## Beychella brings black culture

*The first black female headliner at Coachella leaves a lasting impression on the crowd*

**Taryn Beaufort**  
Opinion Editor

On Weekend One of Coachella, Queen Bey gave a performance of a lifetime. It was her first time headlining the Coachella music festival, and Coachella's first time having a black female headliner.

After attending Weekend Two of Coachella, junior Feven Abraham commented on what it was like to experience this performance live.

"Beyoncé's performance was definitely the most lively," Abraham said. "Her set was more than her singing; it was an overall show. Her dancers were amazing, and the little skits just kept everyone hooked on what was going to happen next."

Both weekends included guest appearances by Destiny's Child, Jay-Z, and Beyoncé's sister, Solange.

Abraham commented on the excitement surrounding Beyoncé's performance at the polo fields.

"The crowd just seemed in awe with the performance," Abraham said. "Everyone was singing along and just looked genuinely happy. I had overheard so many people talking about her as the day progressed and how they were excited to see her."

Even though she was thousands of miles away from the South, Beyoncé was able to transform the desert stage into a dynamic space and representation of the South and its Historic Black Colleges/Universities (HBCUs). From the time her performance began all the way up until the end, Beyoncé exuded elements of black tradition and culture.

For the majority of her set, Beyoncé had an army of performers in the background dressed in bright yellow uniforms.

Josen Diaz, assistant professor of the Ethnic Studies Department, shared how this strongly contributed to Beyoncé's performance.

"So many of them were young people who, I think, either had involvement with a historically black college or had graduated from a historically black college,"

Diaz said. "A lot were alumni — there were interviews with people who said, 'I always wanted to work with Beyoncé and she gave us the opportunity to do so.' So this 'rights tradition' of black empowerment was so critical."

The musicians and background singers wore marching band attire with the initials BΔK, a fictionalized nod to black Greek organizations. Beyoncé herself was wearing denim cutoffs and a yellow hoodie with BΔK embroidered on the front.

Abraham believes that Beyoncé's incorporation of black Greek organizations' ideals and traditions embraces touches upon aspects black culture.

"Many people at Coachella are college students or around that age and they're very aware of fraternities and sororities, but only the predominantly white ones," Abraham said. "So I think this was a common ground of understanding. Black fraternities and sororities were, and are, necessities. They allow for a support group, especially when you all have in common that you're the minority on campus."

Diaz commented on how Beyoncé's work has not always centered around black culture.

"I think one of the things that have been really interesting to me about Beyoncé is that she's always been mainstream, always been a pop icon, especially with her work with Destiny's Child," Diaz said. "But what's so interesting to me now is that she is incorporating so much of black music and black history and black social traditions into her work, and unapologetically so."

Diaz found the timing of Beyoncé's performance, and shift in musical style, to be appropriately aligned with the current state of politics in the United States, which allowed for the potential to make it highly relatable to the audience.

"I think that there's been not just a need for awareness about issues that are in black communities with police brutality, invisibilizing black women, but it's also about trying to make a space for black artists and people to express those things," Diaz said. "We see that with Kendrick Lamar



Beyoncé performed the song "Soldiers" with Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams — her old band members in Destiny's Child.

Photo courtesy of Mary Pat Abruzzo

winning the Pulitzer Prize. There are all of these needs not to just narrate the black experience, but have black people narrate the black experience."

Abraham echoed Diaz's comment.

"Beyoncé embraced black culture and what it may look like to many people of color at Coachella," Abraham said. "I remember speaking to my cousin's friends about Beyoncé's performance last week and they said their favorite part was her use of the black Greek system, because they felt they could relate."

What makes this Beyoncé performance particularly interesting is that she projected a black message to a mainly white audience. According to an article in The Guardian, 69.2 percent of the festivalgoers were white. And according to a self-reported survey by Coachella, in 2013 only 4.9 percent of festivalgoers were black.

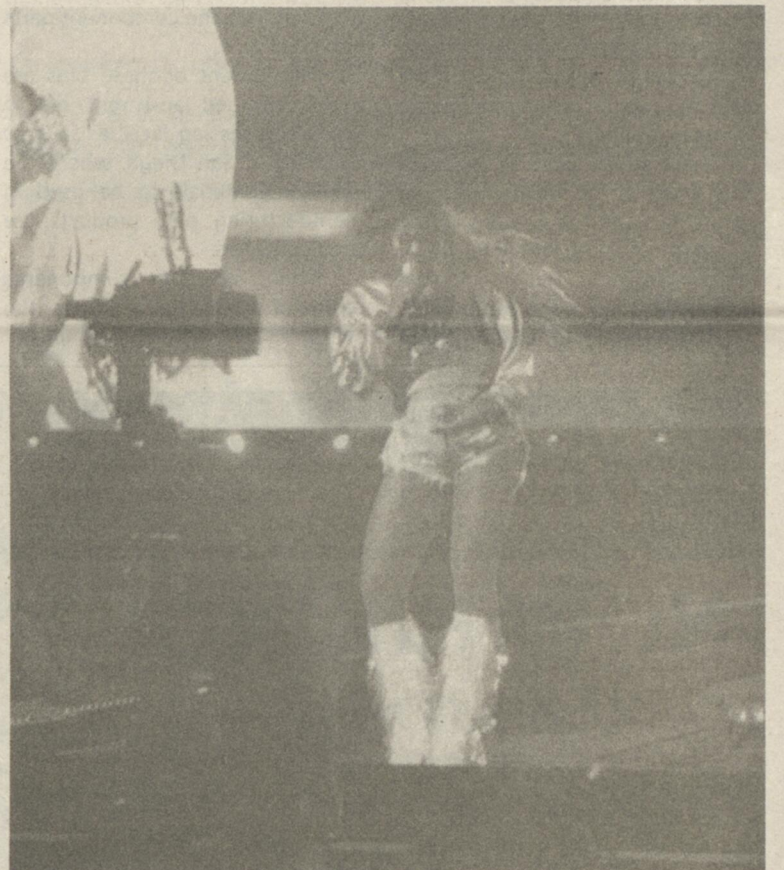
Although Beyoncé was performing in front of a predominantly white crowd, she did not hold back on delivering her messages.

"One can never really absorb it in ways that artists intended, but I do think what is important is that people are (really trying), or maybe I'm really trying to understand the specific things that she's saying," Diaz. "I think that makes room for conversation and dialogues. Hopefully it makes room for people being able to identify this is a widespread issue. And not just that we have the privilege to not talk about it anymore, but that is a constant, continuous struggle between whether you can absorb black music and buy it without understanding what it means to be a black person in society."

Diaz believes that Beyoncé's performance attempted to cross the bridge between racial boundaries in music.

"She's like, 'Okay maybe you can enjoy my music, maybe you can really enjoy what I'm doing, but if you are going to do that maybe you can also listen to what I'm saying,'" Diaz said.

Beyoncé sang "Lift Every Voice" in front of a mostly white audience,



Beyoncé mid performance at Weekend One wearing her yellow BΔK sweatshirt.

Photo courtesy of Mary Pat Abruzzo

which is widely regarded as the black national anthem. The song then flowed into Beyoncé's "Formation," which could be considered as her own national anthem.

Diaz commented on how the combination of the two songs spoke to her.

"I think the two songs are both about the collective experience, which is a strange thing because Beyoncé is so singular," Diaz said. "But, I think both about bringing in a collective group and bringing up voices and people who have oftentimes been marginalized and asking them to come together as a formation."

Junior Andie Zaharias-Kern mentioned how Beyoncé's performance was not only entertaining, but also an educational experience for her.

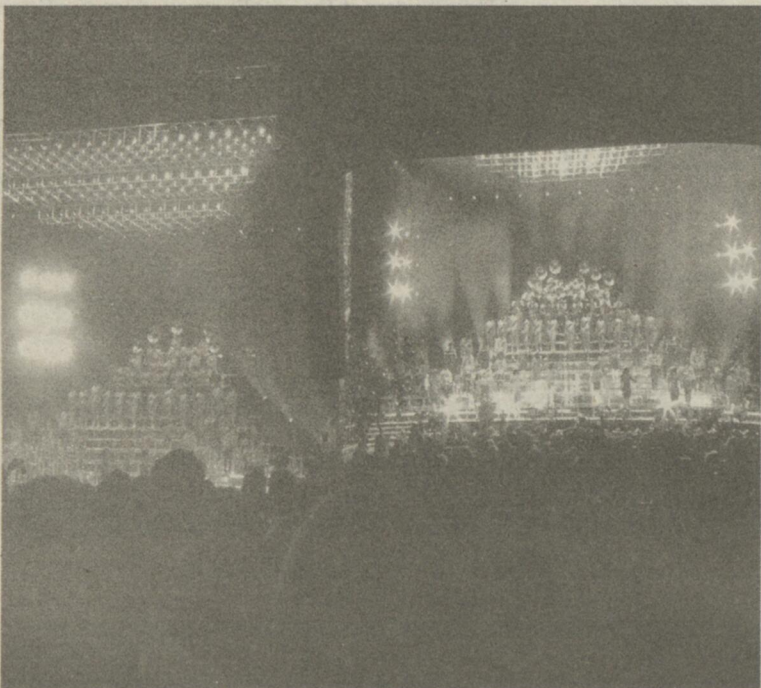
"I live streamed the performance, since I am abroad," Zaharias-Kern said. "While I was watching it, I was a little confused by all the different elements and how they related to her

performance. But afterwards, I started seeing different articles about her performance and learned."

Zaharias-Kern elaborated on how the venue played a role in the effectiveness of Beyoncé's message.

"I think that it is great Beyoncé brought this to the main stage at Coachella," Zaharias-Kern said. "I think a lot of people probably had a similar experience to me, not really knowing how the outfits and song choices fit into the grand scheme of things. By having this put on display at a major festival like Coachella, lots of people were made aware of the issue that may not have heard about it otherwise."

She was able to combine some historical messages with some of her top hits to promote elements of black culture that are often overlooked by society. Beyoncé's iconic pop status allowed her to reach demographics that may not have been previously possible before performing on the main stage at Coachella.



Beyoncé's marching band stood in a formation on bleachers.

Photo courtesy of Tia Phillipart

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# FEATURE

## Sharing the power of anecdotes

*My Story is a night when Toreros share stories that have shaped their life experiences*

### My Story from Page 1

listening can have.

"We live very outwardly perfect lives," Luanava said. "And it's easy to forget to get caught up in that everyone else has a perfect life. And I think My Story does a beautiful job of bringing a human back. And so I think that that's why it makes an impact. Yes, it's a simple concept, I'm just telling my story, but I feel like one of the biggest gifts in our society today is to listen."

Sophomore Ally Ramona, along with sophomore Cameron Fruehe, helped organize the event. Ramona became interested in My Story during her first semester at USD.

"I went to a My Story my first semester, and I just loved it," Ramona said. "I loved the concept of it. I love spoken words, storytelling, I've always been super into reading and writing too, so I just thought the concept of the event was cool. I'm such an empath, so I really connected with it. So I thought, 'This is the perfect thing I should be involved in because I'm so passionate about it already.' And so I just dove right in."

This semester's event was popular with almost every seat filled in the forum. Ramona explained why she believes people keep coming back every semester to listen to people's stories.

"Just simply advertising an event where you sit down and listen to people for an hour, that doesn't sound exciting at first," Ramona said. "But I think that people want to delve deeper and feel connected because as college students we really put on this façade of, 'Everything's okay,' and, 'Everything's perfect, I'm fine.' Really, that's not true, and we all have stories."

Ramona further elaborated that she believes the simplicity of the event is another reason why it is so popular.

"We have a really minimalist setup," Ramona said. "We have a podium, and we have a speaker. It's so simple, but it's so powerful. I think not enough people take the time to listen to people's stories and enter into people's perspectives that might not be their own. And also connect with people with a similar story."

Seguin took the role of a mentor for this semester's event. She explained what originally made her interested in the idea.

"I first heard about My Story when I was a freshman," Seguin said. "I was asked by my RA to go to one of the events, and I had no idea what it was. And the first one I saw made me cry. So ever since then, it's

do My Story," Seguin said. "At the end of the meeting, they reveal to you who your mentor is going to be. My process of creating My Story was journaling a lot, and then meeting with my mentor figuring out what topics I wanted to discuss."

Seguin was nervous before presenting her story, but knew that the audience was nothing but supportive.

"Before my My Story, I was anxious," Seguin said. "The day of, I was just excited to share my story with everyone who I invited and all of the strangers who were there with an open heart."

She explained how presenting her story allowed her to express a side of vulnerability in a way that was scary, yet powerful.

"Going up (and speaking) was very freeing," Seguin said. "At parts, I was really in touch with my emotions and I felt like tearing up again, but I felt like that added to the power (of) what I was speaking about. It was a night full of positive emotions, and love and support."

During her story, Luanava discussed experiences as a person of color that shaped her, and how her relationship with her white mom changed those relationships.

"People of color don't necessarily get to talk about how they feel in their skin a lot," Luanava said. "To be a person of color and to admit that you had this feeling at one point, that you didn't want your skin, is something that, first of all, I don't hear my friends do that much. And it's something that's isolating because it feels like you can't talk to anybody about it. And the extra layer with my mom being white on top of it was an extra little piece."

At first, Luanava was scared to tell her story because she did not want the audience to think that the story she chose to speak about represented all of her life experiences.

"And the story I shared, that was one time, one piece, just a tiny part of my story," Luanava said. "But it was so difficult to narrow it down and it felt daunting and overwhelming to share my entire story and to say that it's my story and that's all it is. And I was scared that people would think that the entirety of my story."

Every storyteller at My Story has a mentor who helps them develop their story and be open to vulnerability. The storytellers and mentors work together for about two months before the event.

Ramona explained the purpose of a mentor.

"(Mentors are) just there to empower (storytellers) and help them feel more confident and ready

**"I started to write and I started to journal, and so many different stories kept popping out. But one of the biggest things for me was seeing the thread throughout all the stories."**

**-Davis Luanava**

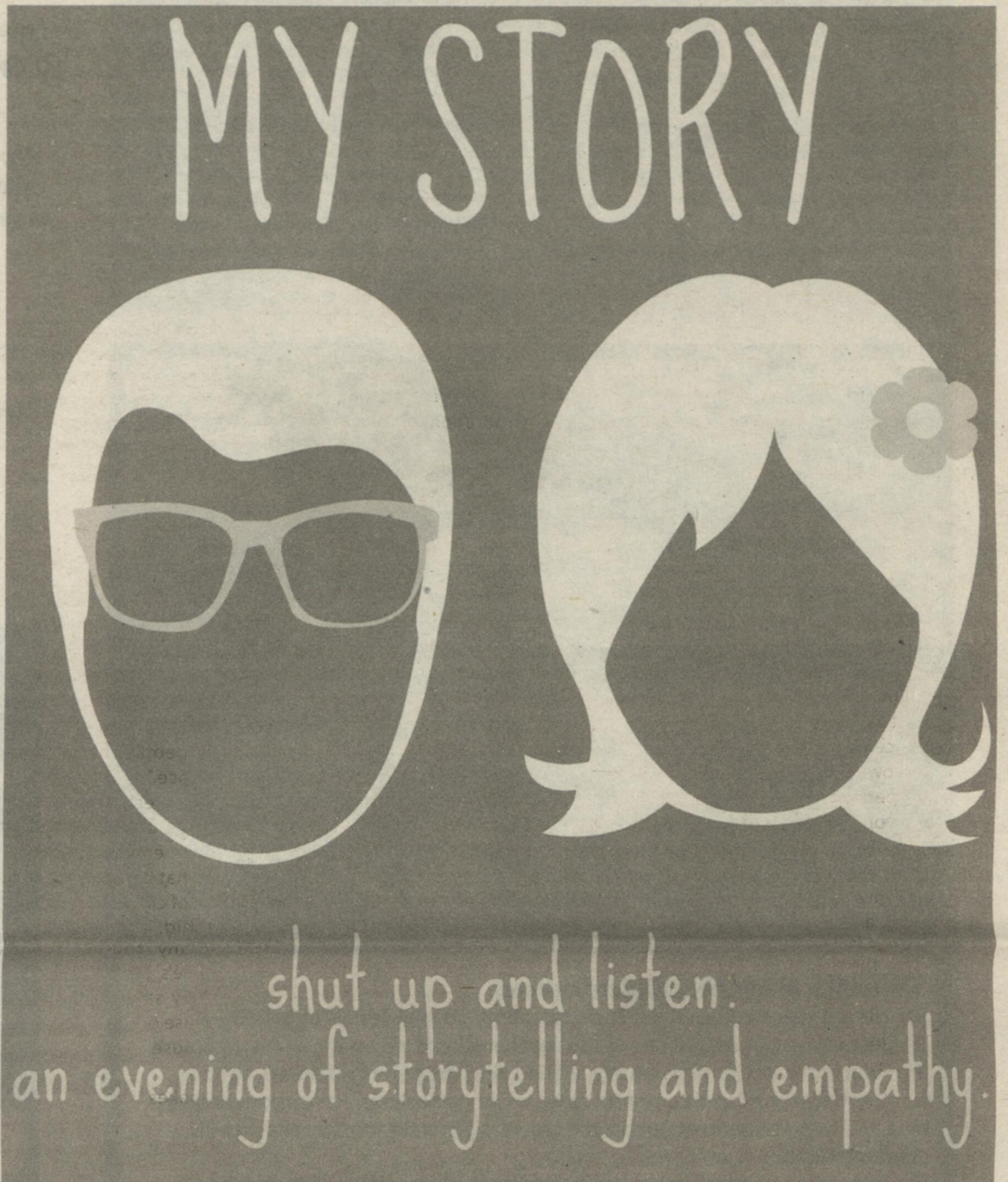
had a special place in my heart."

Seguin applied to be a storyteller at My Story, and was chosen. She outlined the process of what it was like to develop her story.

"We do a few activities helping you figure out why you wanted to

to share their stories," Ramona said. "And basically assist them in any way they need throughout the process."

After being a storyteller, Seguin decided to become a mentor because she loved being a speaker so much.



My Story is hosted every semester and is sponsored by Associated Students and the Changemaker Hub.

Photo courtesy of USD Changemaker Hub

"I really wanted to be a supportive mentor," Seguin said. "The person I was paired up with, I didn't know. We set up a session where we could sit on the Colachis Plaza and just talk for a few hours. I was just prompting her with questions, and she told me stories. By making her open up and talking about things that were important to her and that she was supposed to confide in me, it helped her figure out what things she wanted to share with the community."

Luanava explained how her mentors helped her interweave the different parts of her life to create a story that represented who she is.

"I started to write and I started to journal, and so many different stories kept popping out," Luanava said. "But one of the biggest things for me was seeing the thread throughout all the stories. Me and my mentors talked about that there's events in my life, but the underlying thread is my relationship with my mother."

Seguin believes that My Story is not only a valuable experience for the storyteller, but for the entire audience as well.

"I feel like it creates a vulnerable environment on campus, and a lot of people aren't used to seeing that from very established community members," Seguin said. "By having one night a semester where community members could talk about their stories, it brings people

from all different communities under one roof in empathy and solidarity. And I think that's really unique."

Luanava hopes that some of the audience members connected to her story and can help them understand further the experiences that some people of color may go through. She also hopes that her story helped the audience understand and accept its own flaws.

"It's okay because we went through this and this is the end point, this is how we feel now and we can get through it," Luanava said. "To humanize is to also

connection, and I think this event provides that," Ramona said. "I think of anyone in this room, and I know that I connect to at least one thing that each speaker said. Even if you don't, there's a really inspiring message to take away from each story. So I think that keeps people coming back, for sure."

While Ramona hopes My Story will continue to be a success, she does not necessarily see the need for it to expand.

"I just think I'm going to roll with it and see," Ramona said. "I don't think this event really needs to change that much. People keep coming back for it, just as it is. One

**"By having one night a semester where community members could talk about their stories, it brings people from all different communities under one roof in empathy and solidarity. And I think that's really unique."**

**-Jenelle Seguin**

create connection, and to create a community, and to create empathy, and to create a safety net, and to create this sense of understanding that it's okay to be who you are with fallacies and everyone has fallacies."

Ramona also believes the event bolsters a sense of community at USD.

"I think people really crave

thing that we would really like is for President Harris to do a talk at My Story, but that just takes a lot of planning in advance."

My Story is an event for people to bring an open heart and an open mind. The simple, yet powerful concept is one that is impactful at USD and will continue to strive to build community.



## SURFING TERMS AND STYLES

When it comes to surfing there are many different terms, styles, and skills that come along with being in the water. One of the most important terms to know when looking for your ideal break is wave shape, more commonly referred to as 'form.' Because the sea floor changes from beach to beach, so does the shape of the wave. Some waves are highly sloped or steep while others are relatively shallow. If you are looking for a fast wave to get good turns on a shortboard, a steep wave is for you. If you're looking to learn or just relax on a longboard, shallow waves are ideal.

Once you have decided which of these you're looking for, you can select your ideal beach. When you're at the beach, the next challenge is to find where at that location you want to surf. Many beaches have more than one place where the wave breaks and the easiest way to find this is to look where the most people are located. More often than not, the largest grouping of surfers, called a pile, is the best location for catching waves.

Once you have identified your beach and are ready to head out into the water, place your leash on your dominant foot. When you are in the water, it is important to know how to read the waves. Oftentimes it is best to place yourself somewhere in the pile and wait for a set or group of waves to roll in. However, if there are not many people in the water, watch where the waves are breaking and set yourself about 10 feet farther offshore from there. Once you're there, wait for a wave to come where it feels as though it is about to break but has yet to, and get ready to paddle.



### SWAMIS (Beginner to Intermediate)

Swamis is located in the City of Encinitas, about 30 minutes north of USD. Traditionally recognized as one of the best longboard waves in San Diego County, the main break at Swamis is closely aligned with the point and breaks right. As far as territorial surf spots are considered, as long as a surfer has basic experience here and follows lineup etiquette, the crowd is generally friendly and non-confrontational.

Encinitas tends to have a more laid-back vibe and less serious attitude when it comes to surfing. Most people in the water are just there to have a good time. A word of caution when it comes to this break: shortboarding is discouraged as the form of the wave is not conducive to shortboarding. Most locals do not shortboard this wave for this very reason and may not be the most welcoming to shortboarders. For surfers who are just learning, Swamis is a good place to start out as long as you maintain a respectful distance from the more experienced surfers and stick to the inside break (closer to shore).



### SUNSET CLIFFS (Intermediate to Expert)

Sunset Cliffs is a major longboard location, located in Point Loma. This area is about 20 minutes southwest of USD. Getting to the break here requires a very long paddle out to the outside reef. This means it requires more technical ability and skill in the ocean.

Surfers here can be territorial so etiquette is extremely important. Overall, this is great wave that surfers can ride for a very long time if caught in the right place. One note of caution is that the bottom below is all reef.

## TOREROS' GUIDE

## TO SURFING IN SAN DIEGO

The warm golden sunshine, a perfect climate, and beautiful beaches: all things that come to mind when describing the lifestyle of residents across San Diego County. At first glance, most places in San Diego seem very friendly and welcoming to visitors and newcomers, especially in a city whose economy relies heavily on tourism and outside wealth.

However, masked beneath the crashing waves along some of San Diego's shores hides some of California's most territorial groups of local surfers. Those surfers often share the sentiment that those who frequent the wave or live close to the break have priority over outsiders, tourists, and newcomers. In order to avoid looking like a complete rookie out in the sea, it is important to be informed of which breaks are the most territorial and how to use proper surf etiquette.



## SWELL SPOTS TO SURF



### WINDANSEA/BIRD ROCK (Expert)

Windansea and Bird Rock are located in the southern section of La Jolla, about 20 minutes northwest of USD. These surf breaks are notoriously the most territorial breaks in all of San Diego.

Windansea is a steep wave and can be ridden by both long and short boards, although short boards seem to dominate the landscape at both these breaks. For Toreros who are newer and even intermediate in surfing experience, surfing at these breaks is not recommended. There have been a lot of incidents of violence both in and out of the water at these breaks. The locals here are very territorial about their wave and have historically been extremely aggressive toward outsiders, even resorting to physical violence and slashing car tires. Articles from the Union Tribune have even covered a murder over surfing localism. A member of the "Bird Rock Bandits" (the surf gang at Bird Rock) got into a street fight with a visiting surfer. During the fight the surfer was hit in the head so hard he suffered fatal brain injury. It is incidents such as these that make surfing a place like Bird Rock dangerous.

The best time to visit one of these breaks would be on a day when the waves are smaller (but not as good) and the locals aren't as concerned with sharing their waves.

### DEL MAR BEACHBREAK / DEL MAR BLUFFS (Beginner)

Del Mar is often known as "where the surf meets the turf," and for a good reason. Del Mar's north county location and extensive coastline provide it with some of the best waves San Diego has to offer. There are two main breaks in Del Mar that can be enjoyed by surfers. The Del Mar main beach break is located at 15th Street directly below downtown Del Mar, about 25 minutes north of USD.

As the name Del Mar Beachbreak implies, the bottom is sandy and a great place for beginners learning to surf on the inside break. The outside break here provides some bigger and better shaped waves for more experienced surfers. Most people here are friendly and won't give you any trouble when learning to surf.

The other section of Del Mar surfing is below the rolling bluffs toward the south end of the city. The waves here are for slightly more experienced surfers as the patches of rocky and reef bottom require some more confidence on the board. At a reef break like Del Mar Bluffs, surfers have to focus on wiping out as shallowly as possible to avoid hitting the rocks and reef.



### SOUTH MISSION JETTY (Beginner)

South Mission Jetty is located at the very southern end of Mission Beach right next to the harbor entrance. This surf break is about 15 minutes from USD and is the closest and most convenient surf break to access from campus.

This break is a great place to learn how to surf with a soft and sandy bottom to land on if you wipe out. The crowd at South Mission is normally very friendly as long as you keep a respectful distance. The wave at South Mission Jetty is good for both long and short boarders, depending on the size and swell direction.

Because the bottom is so smooth here, surfers should be cautious of stingrays and shuffle their feet as they enter the water. If you get stung, the best course of action is to see a lifeguard and put your foot in running water as hot as you can tolerate. The other thing to watch out for here is getting too close to the jetty. Maintaining a safe distance from the jetty is crucial because you don't want to run into it and get injured while surfing. Overall, the wave here is a very easy place to pick up the sport of surfing, and its proximity to USD makes it a great place for any Torero to learn.

## ETIQUETTE

Once you are in the water and watching for a wave, there are also many considerations that you should take in regard to the unspoken etiquette of surfing. Surfing etiquette has many different variations based on location, but there are three general agreements that stay the same just about anywhere.

When you see a wave starting to form and you start to paddle, the first and most important thing to check is where other surfers are in relation to you and what they are doing. If another surfer is sitting farther out, more commonly referred to as outside of you, or they are closer to where the wave breaks, they have the right of way. Don't stop paddling just yet, but be cognizant that if they catch the wave before you then they have the right to the wave and to turn on it as they choose.

If they are far away then you can still catch the wave without breaking etiquette. The question you should ask yourself is: "Would me catching this wave cut anyone off if they were to turn in my direction?" Often times the wave is wide enough for many people to be on it but if it seems someone is turning toward where you are paddling, there will always be more waves coming and you should wait for a different one.

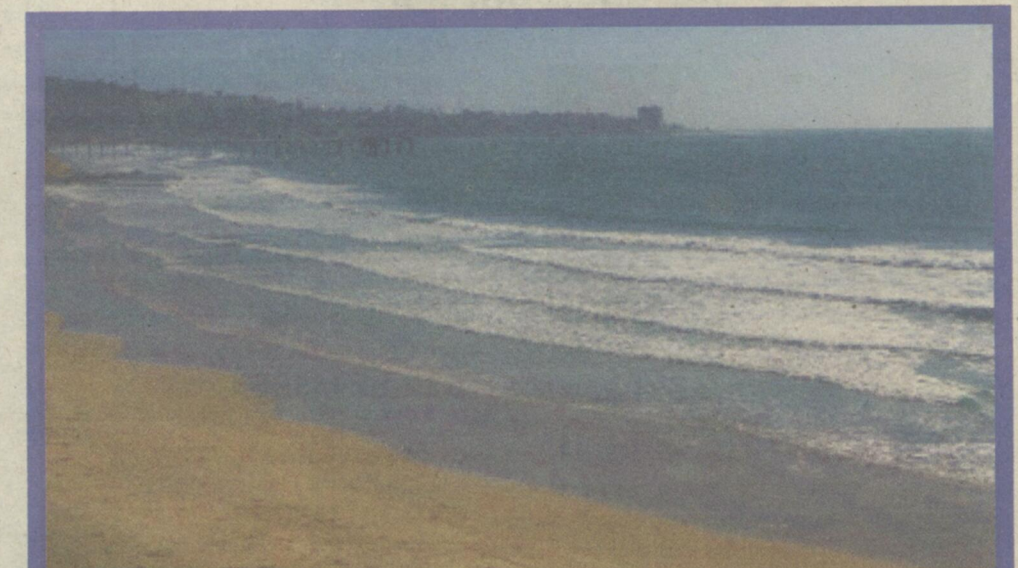
The last general agreement is that if you cut someone off, the best thing to do is just apologize. At most beaches, especially ones that are typically dominated by longboarders, most of the surfers will be very forgiving if you say sorry but do what you can to avoid doing it again. Even the most experienced surfers cut someone off from time to time. However, a note of caution: beaches that have steeper waves, like Windansea, and are more territorial tend to be less forgiving with etiquette and will often defer to locals in most situations. Although it is very rare, some surfers will get verbally or even physically aggressive when they feel they were cut off. These breaks are not recommended for surfers who are inexperienced with either the location or general etiquette. Extreme cases of aggression like this can be seen at Windansea, Bird Rock, and Scripps.



### PACIFIC BEACH (Beginner)

Pacific Beach surf break is located on the north side of the Pacific Beach Pier, about 15 minutes from USD. The waves here tend to break very consistently and the inside break (closer to shore) is a good place for Toreros who are just beginning to surf. The bottom is all sand and the waves generally break softly on small to medium days. Even from the inside break, surfers can catch a relatively long ride all the way to shore.

One thing to be cautious of here is keeping a safe distance from the pier. Getting too close to the pier could result in injury from being hit into a pylon by the wave. Overall, Pacific Beach is a great place to pick up surfing due to the long ride time, friendly crowd, and availability of surfboard rental shops right in front of the break.



### BLACKS/SCRIPPS (Intermediate to Expert)

Blacks and Scripps are located in North La Jolla right below Torrey Pines. Blacks is easily recognizable as having the most famous waves in San Diego by many surf magazines and journals, as well as one of the most famous waves along the California coast. Getting to Blacks requires a walk down a paved road.

The bottom here is sandy, but when the swell gets large this wave can be extremely dangerous and even deadly. It is recommended that only surfers with prior ocean experience visit this spot if the waves are large. On a smaller day it's a safe wave for surfers of all skill levels to try.

Scripps is just south of Blacks next to Scripps pier.



# ARTS & CULTURE

## Jhené Aiko's upcoming show

*The headliner at this year's Olé Music Fest will be Jhené Aiko with Kamaiyah as an opener*

Taryn Beaufort  
Opinion Editor

Anticipation increased as some 81 students followed Torero Program Board's (TPB) Spotify playlist awaiting Olé Music Fest's headliner. On the day the headliner was supposed to be announced, TPB sent an email claiming that the headliner pulled out of contract negotiations at the last minute. Shortly after, it was announced that Jhené Aiko will perform at the Jenny Craig Pavilion (JCP) on Friday, April 27.

Caitlin Teno, TPB Chair, clarified the mix-up with the original performer.

"We did everything we could as our TPB team," Teno said. "We were ready to announce the headliner on the Friday that the email went out and then they canceled last minute because of issues with the contract and negotiations."

Jhené Aiko first made her debut in the music world as a B2K member known as Lil' Fizz's "cousin," though she is not actually related to him. It was supposedly used as a marketing tool, suggested by Sony and Epic Records, in order to gain an audience for Aiko. B2K was an American R&B boy band active from 1984 to 2004. Senior

Shermee Randolph first started listening to Aiko during this time period.

"(I have been listening to her) ever since she was faking as if she was Lil Fizz from B2K's cousin, and making music for the Proud Family Movie soundtrack," Randolph said.

Junior GQ Collins has been listening to Aiko since 2013.

"I heard her on a song from Drake's 'Nothing was the Same' album and have been listening to her ever since then," Collins said.

Although she was not the original pick to headline the spring Olé Music Fest, some students are still excited to welcome her to campus.

"This will be my third time seeing her live and each performance gets better," Randolph said. "She has the energy to captivate and control her audience. Her voice is even better live and she is super cute."

Collins echoed Randolph's belief.

"I think she's amazing, because her voice always sounds just as good as it does on the albums, so it'll be super cool to see her in person," Collins said. "I love 'Stay Ready,' 'The Pressure,' and 'The Worst' — I can't really pick between them."

In the past the Olé Music Fest

has been held in the Valley, but this year there will be a change in venue — it will be held in the JCP.

"We honestly wanted to try something new," Teno said. "The last time that TPB did an Olé Music Festival in the JCP was probably like eight to 10 years ago. So our team, we just wanted it to be better. The artists we got we were really excited about, we wanted it to be in the JCP."

Some students, such as Randolph, are looking forward to the change of venue for the music fest as it brings a new atmosphere for Olé Fest.

"I'm very excited about having the concert in the JCP," Randolph said. "It will feel like a real concert being in an enclosed space. It is always cool to try new things and see how the students react to them."

Each semester TPB sponsors a concert for Toreros to attend. In the past headliners have included B.o.B, AlunaGeorge, Misterwives, and Atlas Genius.

"I wouldn't say this concert is better or worse than the fall concert," Randolph said. "I believe this concert shows the growth and new direction TPB is moving in. The artists get bigger each semester and more students are excited about these types of events."



Jhené Aiko performing at the Molson Canadian Amphitheatre with Snoop Dogg.

Photo courtesy of Charito Yap/Wikimedia Commons

Something that's different about this year's music festival is the fee students have to pay in order to attend the concert and it will be open to the general public. Undergraduate students have to pay \$5 to attend, while graduate students and the general public have to pay \$20 for a ticket.

"We wanted to open it to the public because it is on a larger-scale venue," Teno said. Security is going to be amped up, stage

and lights are bigger. Everything is bigger and better, so that's why we are charging."

The new Olé venue will provide a different concert feel that gives students something to look forward to. Some Toreros are anxiously awaiting to see what songs Jhené will decide to perform. There are hopes for some of her top hits to be performed such as, "The Worst," "Bed Peace," or "Stay Ready" to name a few.

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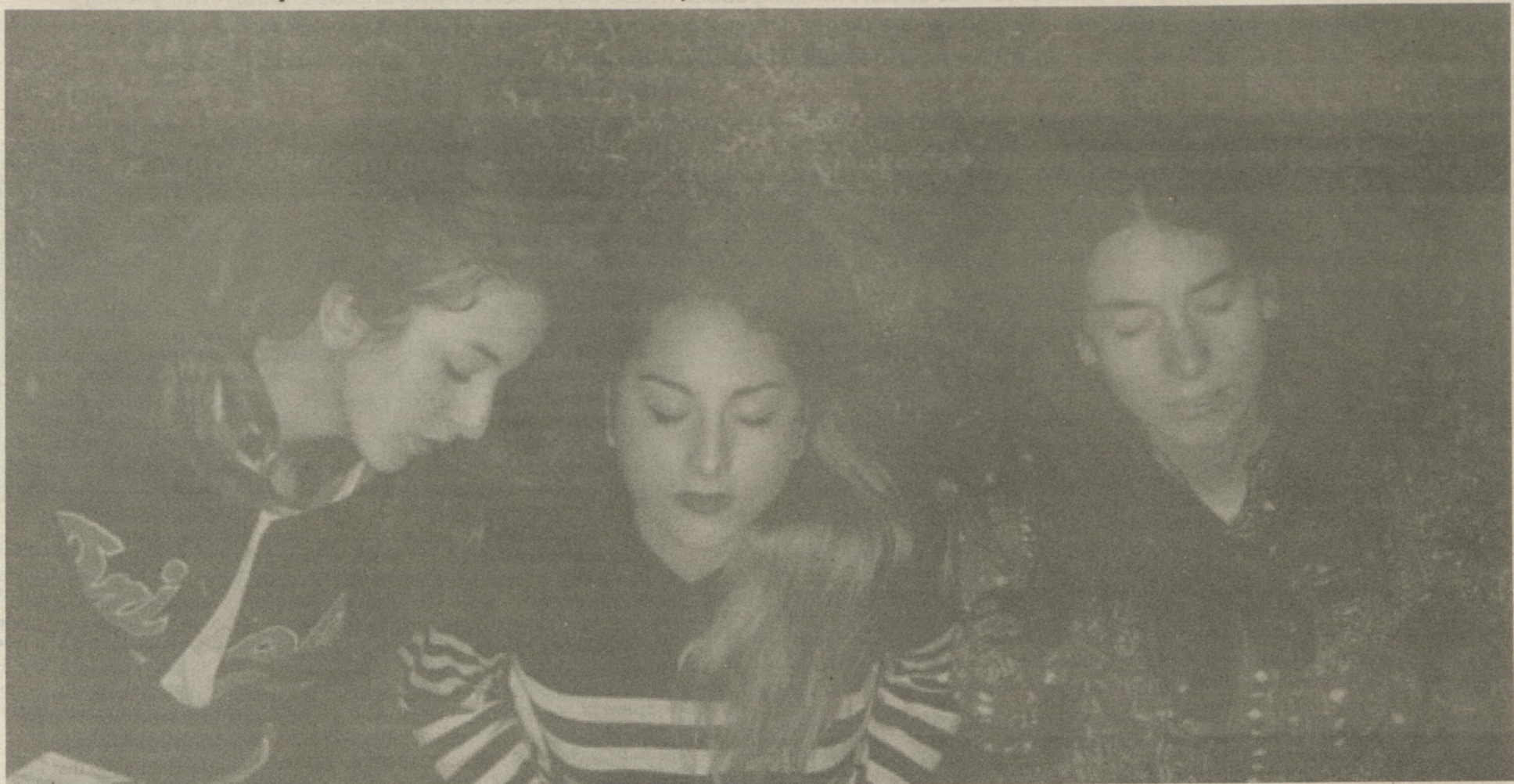


Survey closes April 27



# “Go HAIM or go home”

Girl band HAIM performs at The Observatory in North Park as part of their ‘Sister Sister Sister’ tour



HAIM put on an electrical performance at The Observatory on Thursday April 19 providing fans with songs from their albums “Days Are Gone” and “Something to Tell You.”

Photo courtesy of Wikicommons

**Nicole Kuhn**  
A&C Editor

After taking the stage at Coachella Weekend One, the three sisters known as HAIM—Este Haim, Danielle Haim, and Alana Haim—performed at The Observatory North Park last Thursday on their “Sister Sister Sister” tour.

As an American pop-rock band reigning from the valley of Los Angeles, HAIM glorifies what it means to be a girl band today.

The sisters have a strong background in music with the oldest sister Este Haim, who studied ethnomusicology at UCLA, to Danielle Haim, the middle child, who toured with The Strokes’ Julian Casablancas on a solo tour. The sisters are no stranger to the music industry and their talent shows it. Their sound gives off their own R&B-influenced soft rock with catchy lyrics to sing along to.

Starting back in 2012, the band has been gaining popularity over the years and has released two albums.

The tour kicked off in Portland, Ore. in early April and continued on to Dallas, Chicago, Boston, and other cities as a part of the “Sister Sister Sister” tour.

The sold-out show had people of all ages lined up just a little before the doors opened at 7 p.m., with eager fans waiting to get in. Girls were flaunting their HAIM t-shirts that said “Go HAIM or Go Home.”

Once inside, everyone filed into the venue toward the front of the stage or found themselves in the long line at the bar.

The venue itself has hosted a lot of popular artists this year, with performances by Tyler the Creator and Passion Pit, and an anticipated performance expected by The Arctic Monkeys in May. The historic venue holds every

concertgoers’ dream, including high velvet ceilings decorated with chandeliers, a stocked bar, and plenty of room to move around. The show began within an hour of the doors starting with an opening performance by Lizzo, a hip-hop artist based out of Minneapolis, Minn.

The performer, alongside her DJ and backup dancers, debuted her new single “Fitness.” The dynamic artist songs had a common theme of self-love and women empowerment.

Lizzo left the crowd energetic as everyone waited for the anticipated event of the three sisters to take the stage.

After a quick stage change the crowd’s demeanor changed from chatting to cheering as the lights dimmed.

Este Haim, bass guitarist and vocalist, was the first to appear as a light shone on her figure over a percussion stand. She began a

beat as Danielle Haim, vocalist and guitarist, and Alana Haim, guitarist, keyboardist, and vocalist, appeared alongside her. The crowd went wild as they opened up with their impressive drumming skills and the sisters began the show with “Falling” from their 2017 “Days Are Gone” album.

Five minutes in, Alana Haim shouted into the mic “Hello San Diego!” greeting the crowd. The Los Angeles native even pointed out her third grade teacher who was in the audience. The sisters continued with songs including

“Forever,” “Night So Long,” and “Right Now.”

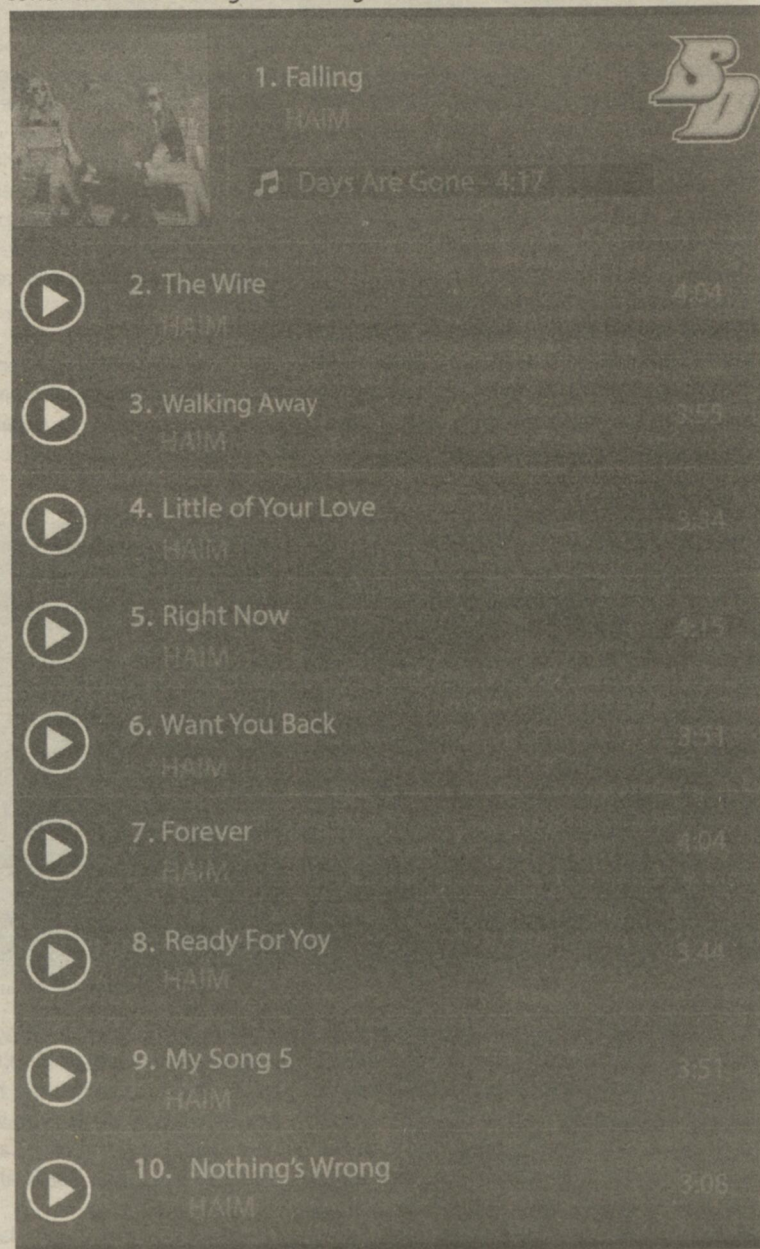
HAIM came back on for an encore performing “Walking Away” and “Found It In Silence.” But the crowd went wild when the sisters played their famous cover of Shania Twain’s cult hit “That Don’t Impress Me Much.”

The “Sister Sister Sister” tour will end May 28 in Denver, Col. But it doesn’t stop there, as the sisters are primed for a massive European tour when they will jetset overseas this summer to continue their tour in Ireland and London.



Este Haim, Danielle Haim, and Alana Haim ended the show with a cover of Shania Twain’s “That Don’t Impress Me Much.”

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Rita Srekais/ The USD Vista



# Where to stay caffeinated

With finals coming up it's time for Toreros to start thinking about where they'll be studying and where they'll be getting their caffeine needs fulfilled. Luckily there are plenty of popular coffee shops around USD that are perfect for both.

By Shelby Todd, Contributor

## Lestat's

1041 University Avenue

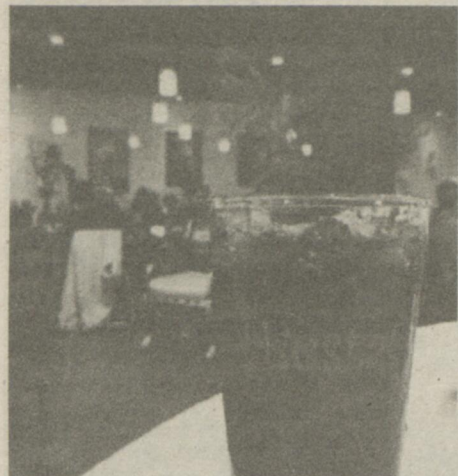


Photo courtesy of Lestats

Often frequented by USD students, Lestat's in Hillcrest is a great study spot during finals week. Open 24 hours a day, Toreros can spend as much time as they need at this homey coffee shop, even pulling an all-nighter if necessary. A large selection of coffee options allows for anyone to find a drink to get their caffeine fix. Seating inside the coffee shop is easy to find at this spacious location. There are also plenty of outlets to keep electronics fully charged while cramming for the next final. Various games

and activities are also available for students looking to take a study break to de-stress. While street parking can sometimes be hard to find at this shop, the quiet and studious atmosphere makes up for it. Other locations of Lestat's are located in North Park and Normal Heights.

What to order: Dirty Chai Latte (\$3.25+), Milky Way (\$3.50+), Bagels (\$2.25), Baked Goods (prices vary)

## Communal Coffee

2335 University Avenue

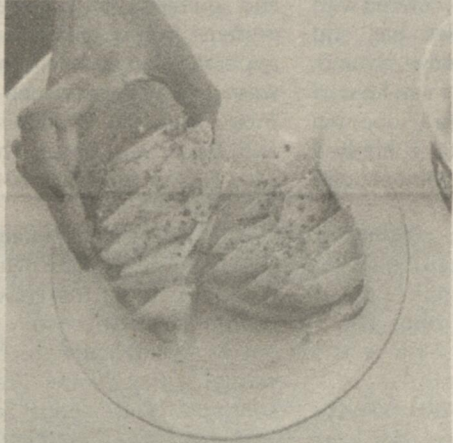


Photo courtesy of Communal Coffee

Located in North Park, Communal Coffee is a great spot to set up camp during finals week. Since its opening almost two years ago, Communal Coffee has steadily risen in popularity, with a second location recently opening in South Park to accommodate more guests. The cozy interior and friendly baristas of this hotspot offer a welcoming study environment to ease some finals stress. Various indoor seating options and an outdoor patio make it easy to find a place to sit. Trendy decor and statement walls also allow for fun photo opportunities during study

breaks. If students are in need of a finals pick-me-up, Communal Coffee has partnered with Native Poppy to sell gorgeous flower arrangements that will brighten your day. Communal Coffee also offers a wide variety of unique food and drink options. From their toast flights to banana lattes, Toreros can be sure to find something to refuel them while studying.

What to order: Lavender Honey Latte (\$4.50), Avocado toast (\$6.00), Salted Caramel Latte (\$5.00)

## Pannikin Coffee and Tea

7467 Girard Avenue

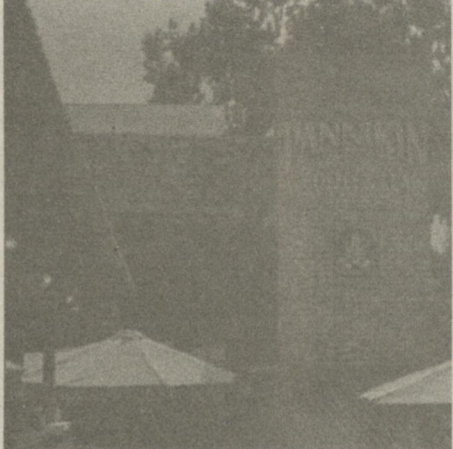


Photo courtesy of Pannikin Coffee and Tea

Located in Downtown La Jolla and Encinitas, Pannikin Coffee and Tea provides a relaxed environment perfect for hitting the books in preparation for finals. The eclectic retro decor and friendly neighborhood feel makes Pannikin a favorite for locals. Pannikin has plenty of indoor and outdoor seating thanks to the spacious deck in front. Some outlets are available both inside and outside. Weekends bring big crowds to Pannikin, but weekdays provide a relaxed and quiet

vibe perfect for studying. Street parking is also typically easy to find. Most importantly, the delicious coffee and baked goods will keep students' spirits high while Toreros are counting down the days, and maybe even minutes, until their last final is over.

What to order: Bagel plate (\$8.50), White Mocha (\$3.25), Cafe Au Lait (\$2.75)

## Better Buzz Coffee Roasters

801 University Avenue

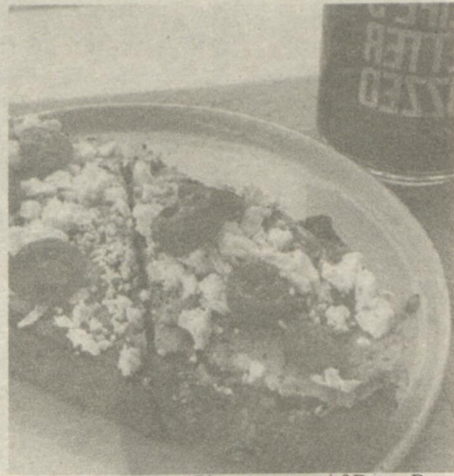


Photo courtesy of Better Buzz

With eight locations scattered around San Diego, Better Buzz has become a popular stop for coffee lovers. The newest addition to the Better Buzz fleet is a 7,500-square-foot multi-level space perfect for studying Toreros. This new location in Hillcrest offers plenty of seating for solo studying, and conference rooms and lounges on the upper level are also available to be rented out for group studying. Better Buzz is known for its handcrafted coffee drinks as well as its acai bowls and sandwiches, which are perfect for re-en-

ergizing after hours of practice questions. Better Buzz also offers Red Bull smoothies for any extra energy students may need. The modern industrial design and ample natural light of this new location are perfect for students looking for a change in scenery while studying. Parking can be limited, so keep this in mind when making plans to visit this new location.

What to order: Best Drink Ever (\$3.75+), Killer Bee (\$3.25+), Acai Bowl (\$8.50), Avocado Toast (\$6.00)

## Brick and Bell Café

976 Felspar Street

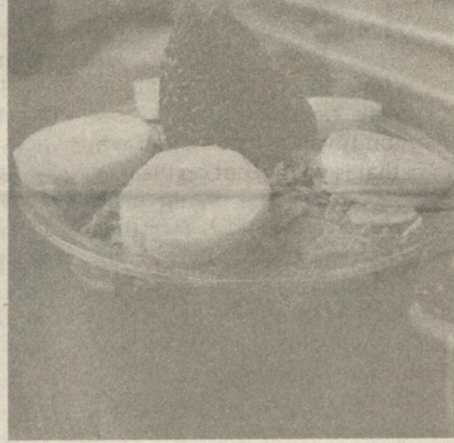


Photo courtesy of Brick and Bell Café

Due to the popularity of its two La Jolla locations, Brick and Bell Café has expanded and opened a new location in Pacific Beach. This quiet and cozy spot is an ideal place to catch up on some studying while enjoying great coffee and pastries. On a typical day many guests are seen getting work done, so when students are in need of some study motivation, this is the place to be. This location offers a charming cottage feel while providing ample seating through its indoor section and large outdoor patio perfect for

enjoying a sunny San Diego day. Outlets for charging are available indoors but not on the outdoor patio section. Weekday street parking is typically easy to find at this location and the outdoor patio is a nice quiet and peaceful place for productivity.

What to order: Vanilla Chai Latte (\$3.25+), Caramel Macchiato (\$3.95+), Maple Walnut Scone (\$1.00)

## Holsem

2911 University Avenue



Photo courtesy of Holsem

Nestled in the heart of North Park, Holsem Coffee is changing the coffee game in San Diego. Holsem Coffee values fair-trade coffee sources, making it an ethical choice when deciding where to get a caffeine fix. Holsem's menu consists of unique flavors such as banana bread, and the extensive selection of cold brew options on tap make this a coffee lover's paradise. On top of their great drinks, a minimalistic design with marble accents makes Holsem

Coffee the most aesthetically pleasing study spot. Parking can be tough to find, but some street parking is available. Overall, Holsem is a great place to get away from school and study in peace during the craziness of finals.

What to order: Nutella Cold Brew (\$5.25), Lavender Latte (\$4.75)



# SPORTS

## USD splashes in UTL debut

*With roots in Marine special forces training, the UTL offers a new sport option for Toreros*



Gameplay in the UTL has been described by players as "controlled chaos." Despite its rough nature, players say they take pride in maintaining a safe environment around the sport.

Photo courtesy of Colton Tisch

### UTL from Page 1

At USD, this formula of unique gameplay and emphasis on community values has resulted in a team that is young, but on the rise

"It's about half ROTC and half people who are non-military affiliated who just like to swim, or have friends on the team," Smith said.

As the UTL's first, and currently

***"(USD students) are top performers, they have a high sense of urgency. They're just doers, they're the ones you want on your team for sure."***

***-Prime Hall***

as they make their way through their first year of competition at the college level. This year, both male and female USD students have been competing in the sport on a team organized by the HERO club, an on-campus organization focused on raising awareness for student veterans. Junior Nathan Smith, a USD player, spoke about the team's composition.

only college team, USD has spent the last season competing against other non-collegiate teams, many of which are composed of individuals with a military background.

"On the other teams — at least everyone on the San Clemente and Oceanside teams currently serves, or is a veteran," Smith said. "A lot of them are 'tatted up,' a lot

of them are in special forces too, so they're pretty gnarly guys."

The UTL is physical by nature. A wide variety of contact is expected between players, and Smith spoke about the oft-rough aspects of the game.

"There's definitely been times where I've been kicked in the face, like scratched or cut, someone got a black eye one time, busted lips," Smith said. "It can get kind of intense if you're at the wrong place at the wrong time. I think it's fun because it's kind of like wrestling, but it's not high-impact like football or rugby where you can tear an ACL or something. It's pretty controlled — I guess controlled chaos would be the best way to describe it."

Still, Smith emphasized the safety measures that he and the other members of the team have in place to maintain a high level of safety.

"It's a really safe operation," Smith said. "I know some people can get kinda worried about people pushing themselves too hard, and getting hurt in the water, but we always have at least two or three CPR-certified guys playing. Prime also taught us — part of our training was how to do water rescues like if someone's drowning or if someone passed out underwater. Being around Prime and those other guys, I feel

***"It's a safe, fun, really welcoming environment. And I would highly encourage anyone that thinks about being interested to give it a try."***

***-Nathan Smith***

incredibly safe — I would trust them to save me if I needed to."

Despite an intimidating initial level of competition, Smith said that USD's team has held their own in their games so far.

"When we played them, I was actually pretty surprised with how well we did," Smith said. "I think we have a unique group at USD where we're all very competitive with each other. We've really evolved on our own, and developed new strategies, and been surprisingly aggressive. We crushed Oceanside and San Clemente our first time out. We're trying to stay modest, but also realize that we can compete with these people, and we do have a real chance to do well, so that's exciting."

Hall affirmed Smith's assessment of his team's performance this year.

"(USD students) are top performers, they have a high sense of urgency," Hall said. "They're just doers, they're the ones you want on your team for sure. The level at which the students were performing was the reason we wanted to come to USD."

Hall's background in the military aligns well with the students, as well as the ethos of the HERO club at USD. Many students in the club have either already served in the military, or plan on

doing so after graduation. For Hall, there are parallels between the sport and what he learned in his time in the service.

"I definitely see the positive aspects of being in a team," Hall said. "Setting team goals, and then everybody working together to meet those goals, and then coming up with ideas from the bottom up to meet those goals, to where the entire team is engaged. A lot of those similarities are there,

which is great to see."

With USD's UTL team being the first of its kind, Hall and the rest of the league's aim is expansion.

"What we would like to see is essentially different levels of UTL play, all the way from kids, to the Olympics," Hall said.

Smith said that he would encourage anybody who is interested in the UTL to come out to a game or a practice.

"It's a safe, fun, really welcoming environment," Smith said. "And I would highly encourage anyone that thinks about being interested to give it a try."

USD's next UTL game is Saturday, May 5 at the San Clemente Aquatics Center, where they will participate in Aquabowl II, a championship of the top teams in the league.

### UP NEXT:

**Aquabowl II**  
**Saturday, May 5**  
**2 p.m.**  
**San Clemente**  
**Aquatics Center**



Each UTL practice places an emphasis on physical fitness in addition to honing skills.

Photo courtesy of Colton Tisch



# Hill shining in senior season

*Veteran outfielder is making the most of her final year with USD softball*



Senior outfielder Kailey Hill is pacing her team with a .306 batting average, six home runs, and 33 RBIs so far this season.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Montes



Hill has been a firstbaseman in the past, but has played exclusively in right field this year.

Photo courtesy of Roy Gilmour

## Anderson Haigler Sports Editor

In her softball career at the University of San Diego, senior outfielder Kailey Hill has had no shortage of memorable moments or accomplishments. A career .308 hitter, she has enjoyed consistent success for the Toreros dating back to her prolific first-year season at USD. This year, as she makes her way through what will be her final season as a Torero, Hill has shown no signs of letting up.

Batting .306 thus far, she paced her team with 33 RBIs and six home runs. But as USD (25-21, 4-5 WCC) makes their way through the remainder of the schedule, where only West Coast Conference games remain, Hill plans to keep her focus where it

"My approach going into this year has kind of just been trying to have fun with it," Hill said. "Not thinking too much up on the plate, and just enjoying my time here at USD and being on the softball team, because it is my senior year, and it's my last year probably playing softball competitively. So I've definitely been taking the approach of having fun with it, and enjoying every moment."

USD softball head coach Melissa McElvain spoke about what Hill's presence has meant to the Toreros over the course of her career.

"Kay Hill, she's such a hard worker," McElvain said. "She's been easy to coach because there's not issues with her. She comes to the field, she works hard, she takes care of business. She's a good teammate, and she's very talented. You see her numbers over her

as a younger player, and how that influenced her leadership style."

"My message to the younger players is just don't be afraid to make friends with the older girls," Hill said. "Because when I was a freshman, there was definitely that kind of barrier between the seniors and the freshman, just feeling kind of nervous and scared to reach out and hangout with them. But honestly, the seniors are no different than the freshmen, and everyone is definitely capable of being close friends throughout the season."

McElvain shared her point of view on Hill's leadership.

"I think her style of leadership is just to lead by example," "She's easygoing, she's fun-loving, all the players love her. She definitely has a connection with all of her teammates."

As a team, the Toreros have certainly exhibited a sense of chemistry. According to Hill, that chemistry has been a factor in the team's success so far.

"I definitely think the chemistry on this team has been the best that I've ever seen here at USD," Hill said. "We all get along on and off the field — like we're all close friends, and I think that plays a big part of us performing on the field. Just being comfortable with your teammates, and being able to joke around and have fun but also compete is definitely a big thing. Just having that chemistry, and confidence with each other has definitely projected on the field. And our performance has been the best that I've seen for a long time, since freshman year at least."

Off to a hot, 4-2 start to WCC play that has seen them win series against both Saint Mary's College and Santa Clara University, Kailey said that she and her team have their sights set high for the rest of the season.

"Our mindset is definitely confidence in taking this conference," Hill said. "Because we are probably one of the best teams I have seen here at USD, if not the best. And everyone is just fired up

to take these series, and hopefully take a WCC championship."

Hill has been a large part of the Toreros run at a conference title. McElvain explained the role that Hill has played down the stretch for USD.

"She has a huge presence in our lineup," McElvain said. "I think teams are worried about pitching to her, I think they're working around her quite a bit. But whether they pitch to her or not, she absolutely still has a presence, and you can just see that the pitcher, or the opposing coach is just counting down, like 'Oh man, we gotta get the bottom of the lineup out because we

championship represents an accolade that USD has yet to capture in their time in the West Coast Conference. For Hill and the rest of the Toreros, though, that only adds to their resolve.

"(Winning a WCC championship) has definitely been the goal since day one," Hill said. "We're so fired up to achieve this goal, and kinda end my senior year with a bang."

While Hill's career at USD winds down, she said that she hopes to leave a legacy of being a model player once she is done playing.

"The time I've had here at USD has been probably the best times of my life," Hill said. "Just

**"She's a good teammate, and she's very talented. You see her numbers over her career, she's just been solid for us."**

**-Coach Melissa McElvain**

**"My approach going into this year has kind of just been trying to have fun with it. Not thinking too much up on the plate, and just enjoying my time here at USD ... because it is my senior year."**

**-Kailey Hill**

has always been — on her team.

A native of nearby Ramona, Calif., Hill became accustomed to a high level of competition on the softball diamond from a young age, as she grew up in a region that featured top athletes.

"Just having that challenge of competing with top schools with select players, it was really fun," Hill said.

After high school, she elected to stay close to home — a decision that just felt natural to her.

"I just kind of felt at home here at USD right when I visited," Hill said. "Visiting the campus at USD, and seeing how beautiful it was, that kinda was my giveaway."

Nearly four years after she made that decision, Hill has had a season that is among her best so far. For Hill, her success this season has all been a matter of perspective.

career, she's just been solid for us."

Being one of only three seniors on a relatively young Torero team, Hill said that she sees herself in a leadership role as she makes her way through her final year in a USD uniform.

"I definitely feel like a leader on the team," Hill said. "I try to lead by example, just getting to practice early, putting in extra work outside of practice, just showing my teammates to put in that extra effort. Just being that open ear to people, letting them know that they can come talk to me whenever they want, just being friendly and reaching out to everyone on my team."

Hill's emphasis on friendliness and chemistry within the team comes from personal experience. She recalled her own interactions — and challenges — with teammates

don't want to turn over the lineup and get to Kay Hill any quicker." The other team's definitely have a fear factor towards her, but when they have to throw to her, she's driving in runs for us. Our WCC opponents, they're probably excited for her to graduate, they're tired of facing her, because she's such a strong player for us."

As Hill's coach for all four years of her career at USD, McElvain stated that she has seen her mature as a player.

"I think she just has become more determined as far as overcoming adversity," McElvain said. "Little things don't get to her. The best example I can think of is if she gets out, or strikes out. She doesn't dwell on it, or let it affect the rest of her game, she realizes that short-term memory-type of mindset, and she just learns from it. Before, maybe as a freshman, she might be a little rattled by an out like that and let it affect the rest of her game. But now, she moves past it, she moves forward, and has a better short-term memory."

The Toreros' goal of a WCC

being able to compete here on the softball team, and show pride in the city that I grew up in has definitely been one of my greatest goals to achieve. As far as leaving a legacy, just being able to be an example of the ideal student-athlete, and working hard, and just enjoying my time here."

Hill's appreciation of her time at USD is matched only by her coach's appreciation for what she's contributed to the program.

"She's local, she's from San Diego, she's been a great student, she's been a great teammate, and not just a great hitter and a great player," McElvain said. She's been a good person, and a positive contributor to USD softball."

In her four years at USD, Hill has had an illustrious career for the Toreros. With her at the center of the team's success this season, the Toreros seem well-equipped to make a run at their ultimate goal of a WCC championship.

Kailey Hill and the USD softball team return home for a series against LMU this weekend on Saturday, April 28 at 12 p.m.